GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:237
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
. POVERTY ALLEVIATION SCHEMES .
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the schemes formulated for Poverty Alleviation are not working effectively;

(b) if so, the factual position in this regard;

(c) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to a report in the `Navbharat Times` of October 1, 2000 in this connection;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps for changing the method of implementation of these schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)
(a): No, Sir.
(b) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
Statement Referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.237 Admitted for answer on 5.12.2000 Regarding Poverty Alleviation Schemes

While the Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan has not yet been released by the Planning Commission, the Highlights of the Mid Term Appraisal are available. Chapter 6 of the ` Mid Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) - Highlights` in respect of Poverty Alleviation Programmes, indicates that the proportion of People Below the Poverty Line has declined from 54.9% in 1973-74 to 36% in 1993-94 which establishes the effectiveness of these Programmes, contrary to the News Item in the `Navbharat Times` of 1st October, 2000.
2. The Concurrent Evaluation of the various Programmes conducted through various reputed and independent Organisations indicate the following:

(i) Erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) (Concurrent Evaluation, June, 1993 to May, 1994): - The Muster Rolls are maintained in 87% of the cases; in 76% of the cases, the assets created were satisfactory and were maintained by the Village Panchayats.

(ii) Erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) (Concurrent Evaluation, October, 1995 to September, 1996):- 46.34% beneficiaries had crossed the Poverty Line of Rs.11000/- per annum. In 72.2% cases the actual disbursement of the assistance was within one month of the sanction. Also, 94.47% of the beneficiaries, who were utilizing the assets, reported that their quality was good, while 87.38% of the beneficiaries reported that assets were productive.

(iii) Erstwhile Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) (Evaluation of the EAS by the Programme Evaluation Organization, Planning Commission - Report in April, 2000): - 78% of the beneficiaries belonged to the daily wage earning class;55% were from agricultural wage earners class and 92% of the beneficiaries were either landless labourers or marginal farmers.

(iv) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) (Quick Study of the IAY in 1992-93 by the Programme Evaluation Organization, Planning Commission):- 85% of the IAY houses were occupied and 84% of the occupants expressed satisfaction/partial satisfaction with the houses.
3. Notwithstanding the above, the Programmes have, in order to make them more effective, been restructured w.e.f. 1st April, 1999, as follows:

(i) The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is a new Programme for self employment of the rural poor and has been introduced after review of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and its allied Programmes namely Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women & Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and the Million Wells Scheme (MWS).

(ii) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) which aims at providing wage employment to the rural poor during the lean agricultural season, has been restructured (w.e.f. 1.4.1999) and is now allocation based.

(iii) The Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY) is another restructured Programme of the erstwhile Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and is being implemented by the Village Panchayats for the creation of useful infrastructure at the village level.